

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

SHELLEY L. VANSICKLE,)
)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
)
v.) **Case No. CIV-14-444-SPS**
)
)
CAROLYN W. COLVIN,)
Acting Commissioner of the Social)
Security Administration,)
)
Defendant.)

**OPINION AND ORDER AWARDING
ATTORNEY'S FEES TO THE PLAINTIFF UNDER THE EAJA**

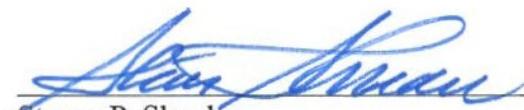
Plaintiff Shelley L. Vansickle was the prevailing party in this action under the Social Security Act. Plaintiff originally sought an award of attorney's fees in the amount of \$6,612.80 and costs in the amount of \$400.00, pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d). *See* Docket No. 24. The Commissioner subsequently filed a Response to Plaintiff's Application for Attorney Fees and Costs Under the Equal Access to Justice Act [Docket No. 27], indicating that the parties have stipulated to an attorney's fee in the amount of \$6,042.80, and that there is no objection to the award of \$400.00 in costs.

Upon review of the record herein, the Court finds that the stipulated amount is reasonable and that the Commissioner should be ordered to pay it to the Plaintiff as the prevailing party herein. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A) ("Except as otherwise specifically provided by statute, a court shall award to a prevailing party other than the

United States fees and other expenses, in addition to any costs awarded pursuant to subsection (a), incurred by that party in any civil action (other than cases sounding in tort)[.]"); *see also Manning v. Astrue*, 510 F.3d 1246, 1251 (10th Cir. 2007) ("The EAJA therefore permits attorney's fees reimbursement to financially eligible prevailing parties, who make a proper application, and not to their attorneys.").

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that the Plaintiff's Application for an Award of Attorneys' Fees Under the Equal Access to Justice Act and Motion for Award of Court Costs [Docket No. 24] is GRANTED in part, to the extent that the Government is hereby ordered to pay the stipulated amount of \$6,042.80 and costs in the amount of \$400.00 to the Plaintiff as the prevailing party herein, and otherwise DENIED. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if the Plaintiff's attorney is subsequently awarded any fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 406(b)(1), said attorney shall refund the smaller amount of such fees to the Plaintiff pursuant to *Weakley v. Bowen*, 803 F.2d 575, 580 (10th Cir. 1986).

DATED this 22nd day of December, 2016.



Steven P. Shreder
United States Magistrate Judge
Eastern District of Oklahoma